IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for simultaneous communication over a closed loop bus, the method on a first master agent on the closed loop bus having an input and an output to the closed loop bus, the method on the first master agent comprising:

Coupling at least one slave agent with at least two master agents including a first master agent and a second master agent on a closed loop bus in a ring network for simultaneous communications, wherein the simultaneous communications on the bus permits two or more of the master agents and the slave agent on the bus to communicate at one time independent of a clock signal;

determining if there is data from at least one of the master agents, and if there is data from the at least one of the master agents then performing:

testing if the data from the closed loop bus is a token, wherein the token is used for complete roundtrip communication transactions so as to avoid deadlock on the closed loop bus;

in response to the data from the closed loop bus being a token, then moving the data from the at least one of the master agents to the closed loop bus and discarding the token from the closed loop bus; and

in response to the data not being a token from the closed loop bus, then moving the data from the input of the closed loop bus to the output of the closed loop bus;

wherein in response to the data not being from the at least one of the master agents and the data is from the closed loop bus, then moving the data from the input of the closed loop bus to the output of the closed loop bus.

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2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

    determining at least one of

        if there is data from the closed loop bus, and

        if there is data from the at least one of the master agents.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

    determining at least one of if there is no data on the output and if an advance line is asserted and in response to the at least one of no data on the output and an advance line is asserted then determining at least one of

        if there is data from the closed loop bus, and

        if there is data from the at least one of the master agents.